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lessly thrown together, whose exact value will come to view only after careful thought and study. Especially does it seem that the conception of the circular reaction and its genetic importance in the individual will remain a permanent acquisition of psychology.

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## ANTHROPOLOGY.<sup>1</sup>

**Surprising Discovery of Ancient Rope and Netting in Southwestern Florida.**—Lieutenant-Colonel C. D. Demford, late of the English army, has found in the recent months, a piece of well-preserved rope, a mass of string woven into the meshes of a net and several artificially shaped wooden billets, from two to three feet deep, in a deposit of soft, black mud, in one of the tide-water sea lagoons near Punta Rasso. These objects were associated with a necklace of shells and a well-preserved wooden dish, evidently of Indian make, and lay at a spot flooded daily by the salt tide, and encircled by one of the narrow ridges of oyster shells, now familiar to students, made by Indians, who feasted on molluscs at the spot. Here, as at other places on the west coast, the shells seemed to have been so arranged upon the low margins of the lagoons as to form small canals and water basins, where canoes could easily pass shoreward, and land on hard bottom when the tides were favorable. As far as I know, no such discovery as this of Lieutenant-Colonel Demford's has come to the notice of students in Florida before, but it remains to be proven, beyond reasonable doubt, that none of the objects, which rested on the shell bottom in the middle of the basin, and completely under the mud, worked their way down in recent times. Nevertheless, experience in digging out the bottom of drained lakes in Switzerland has shown us the effect of mud in preserving perishable objects of human make for long periods of time, and there is no reason why submarine deposits may not restore to us lost details of the past here as well as there. This brilliant and original work in Florida, directing investigation into a new channel, leaves us to wonder why no one thought of it before. The discoverer, while carrying many of the objects found to England, has kindly deposited a series of them at the Museum of Archæology of the University of Pennsylvania, to whose

<sup>1</sup> This department is edited by H. C. Mercer, University of Pennsylvania.

authorities he communicated the discovery more than a month ago, thus enabling Dr. William Pepper to send Mr. Frank Hamilton Cushing to the spot, and to take immediate measures to follow farther an entirely fresh line of research.

H. C. MERCER.

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## SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

**Indiana Academy of Science.**—The Spring meeting of the Indiana Academy of Science was held at the Wyandotte Cave in Crawford County, May 15–17. The members and friends spent the greater part of two days exploring this great cave. The party made the three trips usually open to visitors. The total distance traveled in the cave was about twenty miles, and the greatest depth reached about 300 feet. This report must be too brief to enter into an elaborate description of the long and winding avenues, the grotesque shapes of the many beautiful stalactites, stalagmites and pillars, the grottoes, the pillared palaces, the large rooms and massive monuments and the numerous channels some of the diminutive kind that made it pretty difficult for some of the party to pass through. It is a fertile field for the geologist. The cave is made in the St. Louis limestone of the Carboniferous. Much gypsum was found as well as the various forms of the limestone; also magnesium sulphate and occasional layers of flint. In one part yellow ochre is found. The large white masses of Alabaster is especially noticeable in one part.

A few salamanders were found and several blind crayfish obtained from the guides. Many other animals have been found by previous investigators. It was a most enthusiastic meeting and also a very profitable one.—A. J. BIGNEY, *Ass't. Sec.*

The fourth session of the **Hopkins Seaside Laboratory** begins Monday, June 17, 1895. The regular course of instruction continues six weeks, closing July 27. Investigators and students working without instruction may continue their work through the summer. The Laboratory provides for three classes of students. 1. Investigators who are prepared to carry on researches in Morphology or Physiology. 2. Students in the departments of Zoology, Physiology, and Botany in the University, who wish to supplement their work under the favor-